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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-20. Cancelled.

21. (New) A method for the determination of the sex of an avian subject, the method comprising contacting a sample from said subject with a nucleic acid probe comprising an at least 6 base pair fragment from a target nucleic acid sequence FAF-4 as shown in Figure 11, or a sequence complementary or homologous thereto.
22. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21, in which the nucleic acid probe comprises a probe sequence of at least 15 nucleotides.
23. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21, in which the nucleic acid probe is sequence FAF-4 as shown in Figure 11 or a fragment thereof.
24. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21, in which the avian is a member of Class Aves.
25. (New) A method as claimed in claim 24, in which the avian is selected from the group consisting of *Gallus gallus* (chicken), turkey, quail, and guinea fowl.
26. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21, in which the sample is allantoic fluid or amniotic fluid.
27. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21, in which the sample is taken from an egg.

28. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21, in which the analysis of the sample comprises a nucleic acid amplification procedure.
29. (New) A method as claimed in claim 28, in which the nucleic acid amplification procedure is exponential amplification of the target sequence.
30. (New) A method as claimed in claim 29, in which the nucleic acid amplification procedure is linear amplification of the target sequence.
31. (New) A method as claimed in claim 30, which comprises amplification of RNA in the sample.
32. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule as shown in Figure 11.
33. (New) A kit of parts comprising a nucleic acid probe comprising an at least 6 base pair fragment from an isolated nucleic acid molecule FAF-4 as shown in Figure 11 for determining the sex of an avian subject, or a sequence complementary or homologous thereto.
34. (New) A polypeptide or fragment thereof coded for by a nucleic acid sequence of claim 32.
35. (New) A polypeptide or fragment thereof as claimed in claim 34, wherein the sequence comprises a sequence as shown in Figure 15(d).
36. (New) A vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence of claim 32.
37. (New) A host cell comprising a vector as defined in claim 36.
38. (New) An antibody to a polypeptide as defined in claim 34.

39. (New) An antibody as claimed in claim 38, which is a monoclonal antibody.
40. (New) A method for the determination of the sex of an avian subject, the method comprising contacting a sample from said subject with an antibody to a polypeptide as defined in claim 34.
41. (New) A kit of parts comprising an antibody as defined in claim 38 for determining the sex of an avian subject.